OMAMORI HIMARI

MILAN MATRA

3

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

OMAMORI HIMARI

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
YUUTO
THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE "AMAKAWA FAMILY," ONE OF TWELVE SUCH FAMILIES. HE'S ALLERGIC TO CATS, SO WHEN HIMARI TAKES ON HER TRUE FORM, HIS EYES AND NOSE CAN'T STOP RUNNING.
THE MASTER SHE MUST PROTECT, CARES ABOUT HIM.
CARES ABOUT HER.
HIMARI
A CAT AYAKASHI, OR SPIRIT, WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO. BOUND BY A PLEDGE MADE WITH HIS ANCESTORS TO PROTECT HIM, SHE WOULD STILL BE DEVOTED TO HIM AND HIS SAFETY EVEN WITHOUT SUCH A PLEDGE.
CRUSH
CHILDHOOD FRIEND
SUBJECT WORTHY OF OBSERVATION
CREEPY HOUSEMATE
RINKO
YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."
SHIZUKU
AN AYAKASHI WHO MANIPULATES WATER. HER CLAN DESTROYED BY DEMON SLAYERS, SHE ATTACKED YUUTO IN REVENGE. BUT PERPLEXED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS, SHE'S DECIDED TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE WITH HIM.

THE STORY SO FAR

"I'M GOING TO PROTECT MY MASTER!"

SO PROCLAIMS THE CAT AYAKASHI, HIMARI, TO YUUTO AMAKAWA, A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES TO CATS, WHEN SHE SUDDENLY APPEARS BEFORE HIM.

SHE'S BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, HIS DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN, WITH NO END OF SURPRISES. HOWEVER, HIMARI HAS ONE MAJOR BONE TO PICK—

"FORGETTING UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY THE MEMORIES OF HIS YOUTH AND THOSE THAT HE SHARED WITH ME, AND SHOWING NO INDICATION OF RECALLING THEM ANY TIME SOON IS SOMETHING I SIMPLY CANNOT TOLERATE!!"

GROWING IMPATIENT, HIMARI BRINGS YUUTO TO NOIHARA, WHERE HE WAS BORN AND RAISED.

BUT WHAT AWAITS THEM IS AN AYAKASHI DUO WITH A PLAN TO WIPE OUT ALL DEMON SLAYERS!

HIMARI IS IN OVER HER HEAD WHEN SHE'S PULLED INTO A TWO-ON-ONE BATTLE, SO YUUTO THROWS HIMSELF IN TO SAVE HER...ONLY TO END UP TAKING AN ATTACK SQUARE IN THE BACK.

SEEING THE HURT AND UNCONSCIOUS YUUTO, HIMARI LOSES HER MIND AND GOES ON A RAMPAGE.

"DIE. DIE. DIE!!"

HIMARI SWINGS HER BLADE ABOUT IN A FRENZY, READY TO KILL THE OFFENDING AYAKASHI.

BUT THE DEMON-SLAYER BLOOD THAT WAS ASLEEP IN YUUTO UNTIL THAT POINT SUDDENLY AWAKENS, AND HE STOPS HER BLADE COLD.

AFTER HIMARI'S BATTLE WITH THE AYAKASHI ENDS IN A DRAW AND WITH ALL PARTIES INJURED...

"I DON'T WANT HIMARI TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS FIGHTING."

GIVING THE UNCONSCIOUS HIMARI A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON, YUUTO MAKES THIS EARNEST WISH...

—
YOUNG LORD...?
HAH!
YOUNG LORD, YOUNG LORD!? WAKE UP, YOUNG LORD!!
BASHI (SLAP)
BASHI
OOF...
BASHI

MENAGERIE 13:
THE CAT OF MEMORY & SILENCE

.....
MIZUCHI...
...EVEN WITH YOU ACCOMPANYING HIM, HE'S ENDED UP IN A FINE STATE...YOU KNOW.
TH-THAT'S ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAT?
YOU CAN DO THAT!?
LAY HIM ON HIS STOMACH FOR ME, YOU KNOW...
I'LL HEAL HIM HERE... YOU KNOW.

ぱちゃ
PACHA (SPLISH)
ぱちゃ
PACHA
パシャ
PASHA (SPLISH)
バ
BA (WHIP)
ビクゥん
GYO (SHOCK)
……
ベタ
BETA (STICK)
NOW JUST A MIN-UTE!

IN IMMACULATE WATER LIES THE POWER TO HEAL WOUNDS... YOU KNOW.
BE QUIET... YOU KNOW.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MIZU-CHI?
MOZO
MOZO
MOZO (GRIND)
.....
MUNYU (SMOOSH)
GRR. GRR GRR.
I...I DO NOT TRUST HER...
BUT I CANNOT JUST LEAVE THE YOUNG LORD'S WOUNDS AS THEY ARE...
PIKUN (TWITCH)
... NN ...

AHN ...
AAUH ...
MUNYUN (RUB)
NN... NN!
NUCHA (SQUELCH)
NICHU (SPLECK)
HAAH... NN...
... HAAH ...
GUNYUN (WRITHE)
NUCHU (SHLICK)
PICHA (PLIP)
IRA IRA IRA IRA
IRA IRA ..... IRA IRA (IRK)

...I'M GOING TO SEAL THE GASH ... HOLD HIM UP FOR ME, YOU KNOW.
GYU (HUG)
I SUP-POSE I... HAVE NO CHOICE.
GURA (SLUMP)
!
BECHA (SPLAT)
...YOU THERE, ENOUGH PLAYING AROUND ...
PAAA (GLOOOW)

ALL DONE... YOU KNOW.
SFX: MIIIN (BZZZT) MIIIN
NICE WORK .....
...OR SO I WOULD LIKE TO SAY. BUT WAS THERE REALLY A REASON FOR YOU TO EMBRACE HIM IN THE NUDE, SHIZUKU?
OH, THERE WAS A REASON, ALL RIGHT... YOU KNOW.
IT MADE ME..... FEEL SO GOOD.....
DON'T MAKE ME ADMIT SOMETHING SO EMBARRASSING OUT LOUD, YOU KNOW...
BISHI (CRACK)

NN... AH...?
MUKU (RISE)
FEELING HIS FLESH AGAINST MY OWN...I FELT SOMETHING SWELLING UP FROM DEEP DOWN INSIDE...
KUNE (WRIGGLE)
KUNE
NYAAA-AAAAH!!
PERFECT... YOU KNOW.
BA (OOINK)
YOUNG LORD!!
.....
...THANK GOODNESS, YOUNG LORD.
GU (CLENCH)
TRULY.

...HIMARI.
WELL DONE! WELL DONE, INDEED!! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DEMON SLAYER!
YOU DES-CENDANT OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY MAIN HOUSE, YOU!!
にぱ〜っ
NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

.....
GU (CLENCH)
WE COULD SEE THE LIGHT FROM YOUR POWER ALL THE WAY OVER HERE!
BAN (SLAP)
YOU'RE REALLY AMAZING !!
BAN
O-OW, KAYA.
THOUGH I WISH YOU'D DIED OUT THERE TOO...
.....
BOSO (WHISPER)
WAH!?
GABA (YANK)
...YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T GET HURT?
I-I'M TELLIN' YOU, NO.
THOUGH I WAS BEFORE.

THEN WHY'S THE CAT PRINCESS SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS?
RINKO'S SHARP.
I AM NO SUCH THING.
HIMARI ...
I AM SOAKED THROUGH TO MY UNDER-GARMENTS.
I HAVE BEEN WORKING UP A SWEAT SINCE THE BREAK OF DAWN.
I AM IN NEED OF A NICE LONG BATH.
...NO PEEKING, YOU HEAR?
OF COURSE NOT.
SCARY

もそ
MOSO
もそ
MOSO (SQUIRM)
THIS IS...
AN IPPON-DATARA WAS IT?
IF WE LET HER GO, SHE'LL PULL DOWN THE PILLARS, AND IF WE DON'T BLINDFOLD HER, SHE'LL SHOOT A WEIRD BEAM FROM HER EYE, SO...
...WE HAD NO CHOICE.
THAT HINOENMA... AGEHA, I THINK IT WAS.
SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO A THING I HAD TO SAY.
ALL SHE THOUGHT ABOUT WAS TAKING MY LIFE.
.....!
SHIZUKU, I GUESS MY WAY OF THINK-ING IS PRETTY NAIVE.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF AYA-KASHI... YOU KNOW.
I'M THE SENSIBLE KIND, YOU KNOW...
YUUTO, DO YOU GET THAT? ...YOU KNOW.
OF COURSE. I REALLY APPRECI-ATE YOU, SHIZUKU.
IN ANY CASE!
NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD A TASTE OF THE HARSH REALITY OF BEING A DEMON SLAYER, LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING...
EACH OF THE TWELVE SLAYER CLANS HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE POWER...
THAT OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY IS CALLED THE "LIGHT FERRY," WHICH CAN GRANT ORDINARY ITEMS MAGICAL PROPER-TIES.
LIGHT... FERRY?
UUUH, LIKE "ENCHANT MAGIC" IN RPGs?

ACCORDING TO THE TEXTS, ITS EFFECTIVENESS IS ABSOLUTE... WHY, EVEN THAT STICK YOU FOUND LYING ON THE GROUND...
...WAS IMBUED WITH A POWER EQUAL TO THE SWORDS OF LEGEND AND BLADES OF LORE, YOU KNOW.
...!?
WHEN I STOPPED HIMARI'S BLADE... THAT WAS WHAT THAT WAS?
SHIZUKU.
FAILING TO EXCEL IN SWORDSMANSHIP, PHYSICAL PROWESS, AND MAGICAL ABILITY, THE AMAKAWA FAMILY ONLY ROSE TO THE STATUS OF DEMON SLAYER AS A RESULT OF THIS "LIGHT FERRY" SKILL...
HIMARI...

WAS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT HIMARI...
...ABOUT THE AYAKASHI THAT THE AMAKAWA FAMILY SUBJUGATED IN THOSE TEXTS?
GWEH!
GASHI (CHOKE)
R-RINKO, UH...
PUNI (SMOOSH)
WHAT!?
M-MY BACK...IS TOUCHING...
SOMETHING KINDA SOFT AND SQUISHY
.....
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU. NOT THAT CAT, GOT IIIIT?
GYUUUU (SQUEEEZE)
R-R-R-RINKO?

SFX: GUNYUUUU (SMOOOOSH)
SQUISHING SOMEONE AGAINST YOUR FLAT-AS-A-WALL CHEST IS ONLY GOING TO BE PAINFUL, YOU KNOW... SO QUIT THAT...
NOT THAT IT HURTS, THOUGH
GIGIGI (TIGHT)
AAAAH! HOTTT!
HEH HEH HEH!
MIIIIN
MIIIIN
MIIIIN (BZZZT)
CHIRIIIN (TINKLE)
AVEN & ARTH
SO EVIL, IN FACT, THAT THEY'D KILL AND EVEN EAT PEOPLE...YOU KNOW.
...THAT CAT'S ANCESTORS WERE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE KIND OF EVIL AYAKASHI THAT HARM HUMANS, YOU KNOW...
CHUUU (SLUUUURP)
...THIS MAY NOT BE SOME-THING I SHOULD BE SAYING, YOU KNOW... BUT...

EVEN AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF SUBJUGATION, I'M CERTAIN THAT THE BLOOD OF SUCH VILLAINOUS AYAKASHI FLOWS THROUGH THAT CAT'S VEINS, YOU KNOW...
PASHA (SPLISH)
INTRUDERS WILL BE SHOT!
THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN...
BEFORE, YOU SAID THAT THE CAT TURNED INTO SOMEBODY COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
...THAT CAT'S TRUE SELF, YOU KNOW.

SHE TAKES PLEA-SURE IN THE HUNT AND LOSES HERSELF TO THE BLOOD-LUST...
THE LONGER THE BATTLE GOES ON, THE HIGHER THE CHANCES OF HER MIND BEING STEEPED IN DARKNESS... YOU KNOW.
ARE THERE RECORDS OF THAT... HAPPENING BEFORE?
!
ZA (SKRSH)
SFX: MIIIIN (BZZZZ) MIIIIN
YOUNG LORD.
SFX: MI (CHIRP) MI MI MI
TOO BAD FOR YOU SHE'S ALREADY FINISHED HER BATH!
.....
I TOLD YOU, I DIDN'T COME TO PEEP ON HER.
KEH KEH KEH!
STILL, THE MOMENT YOU CATCH HER NAKED, I'LL PLUNGE MY BLADES RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR EYES.

NOTHING PLEASES ME MORE THAN TO SEE YOU SAFE... AND ALSO...
.....
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I....I SHOULD BE ASKING THAT OF YOU.
.....
...THANK YOU...FOR COMING BACK TO SAVE ME.
UM! ...THAT WAS...
KAAA (BLUUUSH)
...HAVE BEEN FEELING RATHER STRANGE ...
...EVER SINCE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR PAST...
IN ALL HONESTY, THOUGH I DESERVE TO BE CHASTISED, I...

S-S-SPEAKING OF WHICH, I REMEMBER THIS PLACE TOO! THIS POND!
YEAH, YEAH!
HM, I DO NOT MUCH LIKE WATER, BUT THIS PLACE IS AN EXCEPTION.
WHENEVER ANYTHING HAPPENS, I COME TO BATHE HERE.
I...I REMEMBERED THAT TOO.
LONG AGO, I WAS HERE WITH YOU, HIMARI.
HM? YOU AND I?
YOU CAME TO ME IN THE FORM OF A YOUNG GIRL AND... K-KI...

HIMARI?
!
HUH? AH.
KAYA, LET'S GO.

MIIIIIN (BZZZZZ)
MIIIIN
—THE FIRST TIME I EVER APPEARED BEFORE YOU AS A GIRL...
...WAS THE DAY YOU TURNED SIXTEEN.
MIIIIN
EH.....

MIIIIN (BZZZZ)
MIIIIN
MIIIIN
MIIIIN
HUH?
JIII (BZZZ)
JIII
HOW CAN THAT BE...?
Y-YOU AWAKE IN THERE?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD, OKAY...?
GARA (RATTLE)
I CAN'T HELP STILL BEING A LITTLE SCARED.

...WITH THAT ZASHIKI-WARASHI GONE, I WAS ABLE TO STEAL IN EASILY.
THE FACT THAT SHE DIDN'T EVEN ERECT A PROPER FORCE FIELD SHOWS HOW DIM-WITTED SHE REALLY IS.
Y-YOU ...!
TELL HIM THIS FOR ME.
I'M NOT THANK-ING HIM, BUT I'LL AT LEAST GIVE HIM A PIECE OF INFOR-MATION.

"ANOTHER SURVIVING DEMON SLAYER IS NOSING AROUND YOU."
I HAVEN'T FORGOT-TEN...
...HOW HE INSULTED ME BY SPARING MY LIFE.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA GO AFTER YUUTO AGAIN!?
OH, I STILL HAVE MY EYE ON HIM.
MIIIN (BZZZ)
MIIIN
MI
MI
MI
...
AGEHA, LET'S LEAVE AFTER I'VE GOTTEN MY FOOD
AH! WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
SEE YA.

CHOBON (SPLOOSH)
.....
ARE THERE ANY RECORDS OF THAT?
THERE ARE... YOU KNOW.
GYU (CLENCH)
BUT THAT'S... IMPOS-SIBLE.
...AND HAD TO BE PUT DOWN BY THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT THE TIME HIMSELF...YOU KNOW.
CHIRIIIN (TINKLE)
IN THE PAST, THE AMAKAWA FAMILY'S AYAKASHI CAT WAS LOST TO SUCH BLOOD-LUST THAT SHE WAS UNMANAGE-ABLE...
CHIRIIIN (TINKLE)

THE FIRST TIME I EVER APPEARED BEFORE YOU AS A GIRL WAS THE DAY YOU TURNED SIXTEEN.
BUT THAT WAS SO...
AWW, GEEZ, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANY-MORE.
MAYBE I'M JUST BEING A TOTAL IDIOT?

EH? YUUTO-SAN? HE HASN'T BEEN BY.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF YOU FOR A WHILE...
WE ALL WENT BACK TO YUUTO'S OLD HOUSE.
AND EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK, YUUTO'S BEEN ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD.
LIKE HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
HIS OLD HOUSE? WHY WASN'T I INVITED!? WAS I THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUUUUT!?
TH-THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
IF YOU'D BROUGHT ME ALONG, I'D HAVE PREPARED YOU DELICIOUS TEA ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE YOU WANTED IIIIT!
WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A COOLER, SO BARLEY TEA WAS GOOD ENOUGH!!

MENAGERIE 14:
CALM HEART OF THE HARRIED CAT

-SLURP-
-SLURP-
-SLURP-
-GLOOP-
-GLOOP-
IT'S NOT REALLY SUMMER UNTIL YOU'VE HAD CHILLED NOODLES.
MIIIIN
MIIIIN
MIIIIN (BZZZ)
ZURU (SLURP)
ZURU
-SLURP-

BOTH THE YOUNG LORD AND THE MIZUCHI ARE OUT.
.....
ENOUGH OF THAT. MY NOODLES WILL GO BAD.
MIIIN
ZUZOZO (SLUUURP)
MIIIIN (BZZZT)
すべべべっ
MIIIN MIN MIN
みんみんみーん
...HAAH! HAAH!
HAAH...
(CHIRP)
...HFFF!

ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
BRING IT!
GA! (GRAB)
ZA
GA (BANG)
KUH!
BISHA (SPLISH)
BA (VWSH)
!
ZUSHA (SWISH)

UWAH!
PAN (SWIPE)
GO! (KONK)
OW!
GWEH!
DOSU (THUMP)
DON'T STEP ON ME! I CAN SEE UP YOUR SKIRT!!
GURI (GRIND)
GURI
WH...AT?
.....
THIS IS POINTLESS, YOU KNOW...

YOU EXHIBITED YOUR POWER WHEN YOU WERE ATTACKED BY THE HINOENMA AND IN MORTAL DANGER...
I WANT TO GRANT YOU YOUR WISH ...
...BUT THIS ISN'T AMOUNTING TO ANY KIND OF TRAINING FOR YOU AS A DEMON SLAYER... YOU KNOW.
...SO I'M TRYING TO PUT YOU IN THE SAME LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION, IN ORDER TO CALL YOUR POWER TO AWAKEN...YOU KNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. ISN'T THAT THE POINT?
HAAH!
HAAH!
BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE I COULD ASK THIS OF, SHIZUKU...
BUT SINCE I DO NOT WANT TO KILL YOU, YUUTO, THESE ATTACKS ARE A FARCE...YOU KNOW.
!
IT MAKES ME GLAD THAT YOU COULD RELY ON ME...YOU KNOW.

THAT SHE'S TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR EFFORTS IS REPUGNANT, BUT... I DON'T NECESSARILY HATE THAT PART OF YOU... YOU KNOW.
PI! (BEEP)
PI!
BUT I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT THE REAL REASON BEHIND ALL THIS IS TO KEEP THAT WRETCHED CAT FROM TURNING INTO A BLOODTHIRSTY MONSTER, YOU KNOW.
URK...
(LII (LOOM)
YOU WANT THE POWER FOR THAT... DON'T YOU? YOU KNOW.
PICHA (SHLIP)
IF YOU DON'T WANT THE CAT TO FIGHT, THEN YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO PROTECT YOURSELF.
PECHA

I DO NOT CLEARLY RECALL THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED AFTER THE YOUNG LORD WAS HURT...
IT IS AS THOUGH MY HEART WAS SWALLOWED UP INTO A BLACK POOL.
WHAT HAP-PENED TO ME ...?
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THE YOUNG LORD...?
THE FIRST TIME I EVER APPEARED BEFORE YOU AS A GIRL WAS THE DAY YOU TURNED SIXTEEN.

IT WAS SELFISH OF ME TO TRY AND MAKE HIM REMEMBER ONLY THOSE MEMORIES HE HAD WITH ME, HM.....?
SINCE THEN, I HAVE BARELY SPOKEN TO THE YOUNG LORD...
PIRO PIRO!

SFX: PIRO (RING) PIRO PIRO!

LI-LIZLET-SAN, YOU DON'T WORK AT THAT KIND OF ESTABLISH-MENT.
I MISSED YOOOOU! WHY HAVEN'T YOU STOPPED BY THE SHOP LATELYYY!?
OH, PLEASE. CALL ME LIZ. ♡
LONG TIME NO SEE, YUUTO-SAN! ♡
SHIZUKU, WHAT'S GOING ON...?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LIZLET!!
HAAAH HAAAH
IT'S NOT VERY POPULAR THESE DAYS TO HAVE SPECIAL TRAINING SESSIONS ON THE SLY...YOU KNOW.
THIS IS THE SPECIAL MENU FOR THE OPENING

A-ARE YOU OKAY, RINKO?
I SEE... I GOT A HEADACHE AND FELT LIKE BARFING THE MOMENT I GOT NEAR THIS PLACE...
HUH... I'M SURPRISED YOU MADE IT HERE SO FAST, RINKO...YOU KNOW.
EVEN THOUGH I CAST AN ANTIHUMAN CURSE AROUND THE PARK TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY...
BUT!! I COULDN'T NOT MAKE IT AFTER SEEING MY GOAL IN SIGHT.
GU (CLENCH)
THE SOUL OF THE GREAT RINKO WOULD NOT ALLOW IT!!
WHEN YUUTO'S THE BAIT, SHE'LL GO TO ANY LENGTHS, YOU KNOW ...
SO WHAT'RE DOING HERE IN THE PARK WITH YUUTO?
YES, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
AS A DEMON SLAYER!?
TRAIN-INNNG!?
EEEK!

WASN'T GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO ONE SPECIFIC CUSTOMER AGAINST YOUR PRINCIPLES!?
YES.
I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU, YUUTO-SAN.
NOW LOOK HERE, YOU!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BECOME SOME SILLY OLD DEMON SLAY-ERRR!
M-MAS-TER...
ULP!
PURUN (GIGGLE)
WON'T YOU BE MY MASTER ...?
BUT YUUTO-SAN ISN'T "ONE SPECIFIC CUSTOMER."
R-RIGHT... YOU KNOW.
LET'S GET ON WITH THIS TRAINING!! SHIZUKU!!
PUSHUUU (PSSHH)
HE'S MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER. ♡

THE AMA-KAWA "LIGHT FERRY" ABILITY TO IMBUE OBJECTS WITH MAGIC ...
...REQUIRES TRAINING OF BOTH THE BODY AND THE SPIRIT...
TO GET INTO THE DETAILS, IMAGINATION AND CONCEN-TRATION IN PARTICULAR... YOU KNOW.
IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A PRESENCE OF MIND THAT DOESN'T PANIC IN ANY SITUATION. SO SAY THE TEXTS.
CON-CENTRA-TION...
THEN IT'S NOT DANGER, BUT A CRASH COURSE ON CULTIVATING A CALM SELF THAT WE NEED HERE.
THAT'S COR-RECT... YOU KNOW.
PARDON ME.
EH?
GH (YANK)
BUON (PLING)
ISN'T THAT BEYOND DANGER-OUS!?
HI YA AA H !!!

GYAAAAH!!!
T-TOO HIGH! I'M GONNA FALL!!
A-HA-HA!
NOW, NOW, YUUTO-SAN. STAY CALM. CALM. ♡
SHU (POKE)
GABA (GRAB)
MUGYU (SQUISH)
むぎゅ
S-S-S-SAVE MEEEEE!!

EEEE!!
MUNYU (SQUISH)
ムニュ
むニ (MUNYU)
NOO... NOT THERE...
Y-YUUTO-SAN, THAT'S MYYY BREAST!
AAHN~!
GYUUUU (SQUEEEEZE)
.....
YUUTOOO!! I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PULLING!!?
AAHN! PLEASE BE GENTLER...
AAAHN!!♡
OW OW OW...

GU! (SHOVE)
ACK...
WHITE PANTIES
UUHN
OOF!!
NNN!
NNN!
NNN!
HAAHN...
GU (YANK)
AH... STRUGGLING AT MY BOSOM LIKE THAT... AHN! ♡
CAN'T BREATHE ...
MMM! MMM!!
TSK, TSK! NO GETTING YOUR HEART RACING NOW... STAY CALM. ♡

PUHAH!!
GUI (YANK)
SH-SHIZUKU?
HISHI (CLING)
GYUUU (PRESSSSS)
PUNIN (SQUISH)
CALM. STAY CALM... YOU KNOW.
AAH, THAT'S RIGHT... I NOW HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT EXACTLY THIS TRAINING IS ALL ABOUT.
ZA (SKRSH)
BIKU (JUMP)
R-RINKO... SAN?

F-FINE, HERE.....
SHOW ME YOU CAN KEEP CALM.
120
5.....
PARA (FWAP)
UWAH WAH WAH !?
GUNYU (SQUISH)
.....
WHAT DID YOU SAAAAY !?
I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT
S-SO SOFT...
UH, WAIT! WH-WHAT...
YOU KNOW, LIKE HOW HIMARI-SAN'S SO WELL-ENDOWED TOO! ♡
MUNI (GROPE)
AH.. ♡
IT'S BIG-BREASTED GIRLS THAT YUUTO-SAN LIKES BEST, RIIIIGHT!?
MUNI MUNI

THERE'S LOTTTTS OF SWEEEET MILK IN A YOUNG GIRL'S BREASTS, YOU SEEEE!
WAIT A SECOND, I THOUGHT THIS WAS S'POSED TO BE TRAIN-ING...
AAH..
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A TASTE OF MY MILK TEEEEA?
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT TRAINING..... M-M-MILK TEA...?
...I'D SAY THERE'S LOTS OF WICKEDNESS IN A YOUNG GIRL'S GIGANTIC RACK...
OHHH MYYY. YUUTO-SAN! SUCH A NAUGHTY BOY!
WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RACK TO SPEAK OF, THAT WOULD MAKE YOU PURER IN BODY AND SOUL, YOU KNOW...
BURU
BURU (TREMBLE)
DEATH TO THE GIANT MELONS!!
TAN (TMP)

I TOLD HIM NOT TO RUSH HIS AWAKENING. THE YOUNG LORD IS SO IMPATIENT.
In order to save you, stupid cat, Yuuto's been in training for the past couple of days, you know... He's just as stupid as you, you know...
IS THIS TO PREVENT ME FROM HAVING TO FIGHT?
HE MEANS TO ASSUME FULL RESPON-SIBILITY ALONE!?
I AM SUP-POSED TO PROTECT THE YOUNG LORD! SHOULD THAT NOT BE ENOUGH ...?
ASSUME FULL RESPON-SIBILITY ALONE ...?
WHO DO I MEAN...
PITA (PAUSE)
!
YOUNG LORD—

EVERYBODY GET A GRIP! I'M TRYING TO TRAIN HERE!!
YOUNG LORD...?
GASA (PRIMSTLE)

BIKI (SNAP)
C-CALM DOWN, CAT PRINCESS. THAT AIR OF IMMINENT VIOLENCE ISN'T VERY BECOMING.
YOU KNOW...
TH-THIS IS TRAINING ON HOW TO KEEP CALM UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU SEE, AND, UMMM—!
HAH WAH WAH ~!
SHAKIIIIN (SHNK)
ZAWAWAWAWA (DOOOOOOM)
WELL, WELL... WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS THIS?
THIS LOOKS TO BE RATHER LASCIVIOUS TRAINING, IF YOU ASK ME...
H-HIMARI...
I SEE... YOU ARE TRAINING FOR TAKING ON THREE FEMALES AT ONCE.....
BIN (PERK)
I IMAGINE IT WOULD BE RATHER BORING TO HAVE TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN ALL BY YOUR-SELF.....

...SO ALLOW ME TO AGITATE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART TO THE MARROW OF YOUR BONES!!
GABA (JUMP)
GEEEEH!!
NOW LET US SEE YOU STAY CALM, YOUNG LORD!!
GUNYUN (WRITHE)
WAAAAIT!! IT'S MY ALLERGIES THAT CAN'T CALM DOWN!!
QUIT IT, HIMARI! STOP BITING HIM!!
H-HE'S BLEED-INNNG!
AH... AAAH!
GAKU (DROOP)
AH, HE'S DEAD... YOU KNOW.
FOR SOME TIME AFTER THAT, HIMARI NEVER TURNED OFF HER CAT-EAR MODE.....

YOU'RE SAYING HIS DEMON-SLAYER POWERS HAVE STIRRED !?
...NO WAY! IS THAT TRUE, SHIZUKU?
THE AMAKAWA FLEDGLING HAS WOKEN!?
SO SHE'S SEEN IT GET THAT FAR. WE SHOULD HAVE DONE AWAY WITH HIM FOR GOOD BEFORE, AFTER ALL.
NOT COM-PLETELY AS OF YET... HE'S ONLY SHOWING SIGNS AT THIS STAGE... YOU KNOW.
HOW ABOUT IT, SHIZUKU? THINK YOU CAN MAKE HIM YOUR PUPPET?
BUT WAIT, THAT'S WHAT SHIZUKU'S HERE FOR.
THERE IS NO WAY HE WILL COME HERE TO EXTER-MINATE US HIMSELF... YOU KNOW.
...I CAN ONLY SAY THIS...YOU KNOW.

HE'S NEVER ONCE TURNED A MEAN EYE ON ME, LET ALONE A BLADE... YOU KNOW.
HIS BELIEF IS TO BE GENTLE TO THE VERY END.
IS THAT... SO?
EVEN WHEN FACED WITH AN AYAKASHI, HE WON'T BETRAY HIM SO LONG AS HE SEES HIM AS A FRIEND...
THAT'S HOW SIMPLE AND NAIVE HE IS... YOU KNOW.
FINE, THEN. LET'S LEAVE THE MATTER OF THE AMAKAWA BOY TO SHIZUKU.
ALSO, MOKU-MOKUREN HAD A SIGHTING.
.....
ISN'T THAT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE TAKING THE FORM OF A YOUNG GIRL?
APPAR-ENTLY, A NEW DEMON SLAYER HAS COME TO TOWN.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN... YOU KNOW?

NOTE: MOKUMOKUREN IS A JAPANESE SPIRIT THAT LIVES IN SLIDING PAPER DOORS.

MENAGERIE 15:
THE BOASTFUL COUNTER CAT

BASHAAAN (KERSPLASH)
.....
WHAT'CHA LOOKIN' AT, AMAKAWA-KUUUUN?
NOIHARA-SAN, EH? SHE'S GOT GREAT STYLE, HUUUH? ♡
USUALLY SHE GIVES OFF SUCH A "CLASSIC BEAUTY" VIBE, BUT WHEN SHE STRIPS DOWN, IT'S JUST BAM!!
HEH HEH! ME 'N' YUUTO GOT TO SEE HER IN A BIKINI TOO.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SASSY, BEWITCH-ING BOD!
GU (CLENCH)
CALM DOWN, TAIZOU ...

BUT SHE'S STILL GOT THIS LONE-WOLF AIR ABOUT HER. SHE HAS A GENTLE SMILE, BUT IT FEELS HARD TO GET CLOSE TO HER.
YEAH, LIKE SHE'S CARRYING SOME MAJOR BAGGAGE.
LIKE A BLADE THAT SCREAMS "DON'T TOUCH!"
THEY'RE ALL PRETTY SPOT-ON...
I CAN'T BELIEVE A COOL AND CALM CHICK LIKE HER'S AFRAID OF THE WATER. SHE LOOKS SO CUTE ALL UNEASY LIKE THAT!!
HOT!!
.....
NOIHARA-SAN NEVER GETS CLOSE TO ANYONE, SO HOW'D SHE END UP ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH YOU?
G-GOOD QUESTION, DUNNOOO!
...
NOIHARA-SAN, BE CAREFUL.
IF YOU GIVE THEM AN OPENING IN THE POOL, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE BOYS WILL USE RESCUING YOU AS AN EXCUSE TO PULL A FAST ONE.
I AM SURE THEY WOULD DO NO SUCH THING, BUT YOU HAVE A POINT... THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING.

NI (SMIRK)
DOKI (BADUM)
SUMMER BREAK STARTED NOT LONG AFTER HIMARI SHOWED UP, SO I DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE, BUT...
IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY HER LOOKS DRAW ATTENTION.
AND EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A CAT, I THINK SHE'S A PRETTY HOT GIRL.
THE MYSTERIOUS TRANSFER STUDENT WITH AN OLD-FASHIONED WAY OF TALKING WHO JUST SUDDENLY APPEARED.
AT SCHOOL, THE ARTS ARE HER FORTE...
...HIMARI'S PRETTY POPULAR IN SCHOOL (ESPECIALLY AMONG THE BOYS).

...WHILE THE SCIENCES ARE WAY OVER HER HEAD. (I HEAR SHE NAPS ON THE ROOF DURING MATH AND SCIENCE CLASSES...)
RINKO USED TO BE CALLED THE BEST LAST-MINUTE SUB FOR ALL THE SPORTS TEAMS, BUT HIMARI'S PHYSICAL PROWESS EASILY SURPASSES HERS.
NOT BEING HUMAN, IT'S PROBABLY INCONVENIENT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HERSELF, BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND AT ALL.
I CAN TELL FROM HOW SHE WEARS HER OLD SCHOOL'S (?) UNIFORM EVEN NOW.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO SHOW OFF.
BUT WHO IS IT FOR? OBVIOUSLY NOT THE STUDENTS.
IT MUST BE FOR THE AYAKASHI WHO ARE AFTER ME.

AT FIRST, I FELT IN OVER MY HEAD, BUT I'VE GROWN USED TO LIFE WITH HIMARI.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT FEELS NORMAL, SINCE IT WAS ALWAYS NATURAL LIVING WITH HER BACK THEN.
SO HIMARI CONTINUES TO STAY BY MY SIDE AND WARN THEM THAT SHE'S RIGHT HERE.
NOIHARA-SAN, ARE YOU FREE TODAY? IF YOU'D LIKE, HOW ABOUT WE HANG OUT ?
WITHOUT MY OMAMORI, PERCEPTIVE AYAKASHI CAN SENSE ME FROM PRETTY FAR AWAY NOW.
AH..!
I CAN'T HANDLE CATS VERY WELL, BUT I'M HAPPY I GET TO SHARE A LIFE WITH HIMARI.

...YOUNG LORD, SHALL WE RETURN HOME?
GOOD IDEA. WHERE'S RINKO?
SHE IS ATTENDING BASKETBALL PRACTICE.
SHE TOLD US TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT HER.
I WAS TOLD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS TO AVOID TRYING ANYTHING STRANGE ON YOU.
HA HA HA.
GATA (CLATTER)
YOUNG LORD.

EH, AH..... .....AH.
かあぁ
KAAA (BLUSH)
TO ME, IT IS PERFECTLY NATURAL, YOU SEE...
GYU (HUG)
ぎゅっ
DOES THIS COUNT AS STRANGE ...?
モゾ...
MOZO (SQUIRM)
ドキ
DOK (BADUM)
ドキ
DOK
.....
HI..... MARI.

HIMARI'S SO SOFT AND SMELLS SO GOOD—
DOKI (BADUM)
—JUST KIDDING. COME, LET US GO HOME, YOUNG LORD.
UH R- RIGHT
EVER SINCE THE EVENTS IN NOIHARA, HIMARI HASN'T TOUCHED UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE PAST.

BUT NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY REMEMBERED, IT MATTERS TO ME WHO THE GIRL KISSING ME WAS...
YOUNG LORD.
LET US HAVE SASHIMI FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
KURU! (SPIN)
WITH THE MIZUCHI GONE, IT IS JUST THE TWO OF US AT LONG LAST. ♡
I WANT TO ASK HER, BUT SOMETHING'S UP WITH HIMARI THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN'T.
SASHIMI, HUUUH? WHENEVER YOU PICK THE MEALS, HIMARI, IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING EXPENSIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT CHEAP FOODS ARE EITHER OLD OR NASTY!
BUT IF I CAN SEE HER SMILING LIKE THIS, THEN THAT'S...

ZAAAA (WHOOOSH)
.....
...?
NU (GNEER)

ZAAAA (SSSHHH)
WHAT... THE—? IT COULDN'T BE A NEW AYAKASHI, COULD IT...!?
HIMARI ...
O GUIDING LIGHT TO HELL.
BOSO (MUMBLE)
THE BURN-ING RED HAMMER DANCES OFF THE DOME.
DAN (TMP)

ZA
(ZIP)
ZA
ZA
HAH!!
GAKA
(CRACKLE)
!
BAKIN
(SLICE)

GIRI
(GRIT)
EEEEEEH!

HMPH.
YOUR CAT LACKS DISCIPLINE.
THE WAY SHE SUDDENLY BARED HER CLAWS LIKE THAT... WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF SHE'D MARRED MY GOOD LOOKS?
OOOOO (WHOOSH)
EH.....
HIMARI ...?
ZA (SHHK)
SHE IS NOT AN AYA-KASHI... SHE IS NOT AN AYAKASHI, BUT SHE IS...
JARI (CHK)
I'M GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME FORGIVING YOU FOR FORGET-TING ME.
THEN AGAIN, I SUPPOSE THAT OMAMORI WAS RATHER POWERFUL.
.....SO THAT IS HOW IT IS. NOW I HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW RINKO MUST HAVE FELT...
...THE FIRST TIME SHE MET ME.

I AM KUESU, HEIRESS TO THE JINGUUJI CLAN OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMI-LIES.
DEMON SLAYER!?
ANOTHER DEMON SLAYER BESIDES ME...!
THAT'S KUESU JINGUUJI-SAMA TO YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT. I HEARD AGEHA SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT TOO.
SHE SAID A DEMON SLAYER WAS COMING TO GET ME...
BA (FLOUNCE)

!!
YOU SAW THAT FIGHT ...!
THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE ON MY WAY TO NOIHARA ...
...AND I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO OBSERVE YOU UP TILL TODAY.
YUUTO AMAKAWA... NOW THAT I'VE COME, YOU HAVE NO MORE NEED TO KEEP COMPANY WITH FILTHY AYAKASHI.
COME WITH ME.
YOU'VE ONLY JUST BARELY AWAK-ENED. YOU NEED SOMEONE LIKE ME TO GUIDE YOU.
I CAN'T POSSIBLY BRING MYSELF TO LEAVE YUUTO AMAKAWA IN AS UNCLEAN A PLACE AS THIS FOR A SECOND LONGER.
HOWEVER, HE MUST NOT BE ADVANCING ANY FARTHER IN HIS AWAKEN-ING, THE WAY HE'S STILL SURROUNDED BY SO MANY AYAKASHI...
STOP LABELING THESE AYAKASHI AS ENEMIES WITHOUT EVEN GIVING THEM A CHANCE!
HOLD IT. I CAN'T SIT BY AND LET YOU CALL THEM UNCLEAN AND FILTHY.

HM...
WHAT NAIVE BABBLE... AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DEMON SLAYER?
SAVE ME YOUR TRIVIAL QUIBBLES AND COME ALONG NOW.
THAT'S AN ORDER.
YOUNG LORD...!
WH-WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO ORDER ME AROUND?
YOUR GRAND-FATHER.

WH...AT? GRAND-PA...?
.....
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS TOLD TO PARTNER WITH YUUTO AMAKAWA IN THE FUTURE...
IF I TOLD YOU I WAS RECOGNIZED BY BOTH OUR FAMILIES AS YOUR BETROTHED, WOULD YOUR DULLARD BRAIN COMPREHEND THAT?
RUSTLE
ZA
IT COULDN'T BE...!!
DOKUN (BADUM)

THAT GIRL I MISTOOK FOR HIMARI ....!!

BA (LEAP)
EH.....
...ALLOW ME TO JOG YOUR MEMORY MORE POINTEDLY.
SU (STEP)

U...
WAH...
MO.....
YORO
(STAGGER)

MENAGERIE 16: KISS×CAT×〈KISS〉

KUESU JINGUUJI ...?
HER FACE IS TAKING UP MY WHOLE LINE OF SIGHT...
チラ
CHIRA (GLANCE)
AH...
I MEAN, FORGET THAT, WE'RE KISSING! WE'RE ACTUALLY KISSING ...!!
チュ
CHUPU (SMECK)
THAT GIRL'S—

NN...
CHU CHU
GUI (SHOVE)
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU—
NNMPH!
CHU (SMOOCH)
!!
GIRI (GRIT)

TWICE ...?
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.
KUCHU (SHLICK)
Y-YOU WENCH! NOT JUST ONCE, BUT TWICE!
BA (BLOCK)
YOU INSOLENT HUSSY ...!!

HEH!
THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM, AS THE SAYING GOES. ♡
.....WELL, LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR TODAY, YUUTO AMAKAWA.
I'M SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF PREPARING TO DO YOURSELF, SO I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF HERE.

I'LL BE CALLING ON YOU AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS.
AH, AND I'M STAYING AT THE SHINTAKAMIYA CENTURY IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER, SO I DON'T MIND IF YOU DECIDE TO COME VISIT ME, OKAY?
IT'S A VERY HIGH-CLASS HOTEL, THOUGH, SO...
...PLEASE LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME IF YOU DO.
IF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY DOESN'T GET IT TOGETHER AND CUT TIES WITH THOSE AYAKASHI...
...YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR HOUSE WILL BE DESTROYED BY SOME DEMON SLAYER, RIGHT?
NIYA (SMIRK)
BARA (FLAP)
WELL, THEN.
TAKE CARE.
BASA (FLAP)
SA
SA
SA

HIMARI ...?
WE ARE GOING HOME, YOUNG LORD.
BASA
BASA
アアア
アアア....
ZAAAAAAA (SSSSHHH)
WE ARE GOING HOME.
I KISSED A GIRL.
IF IT'D BEEN THE REAL THING, I'D BE HAPPIER ABOUT IT, AND MY HEART WOULD BE BEATING ALL FAST, AND I'D BE SUPER EXCITED, BUT...
Y-YEAH ...

...THOSE FEELINGS ARE THE FARTHEST THINGS FROM MY MIND RIGHT NOW.
...YES, I'VE MADE CONTACT WITH YUUTO AMAKAWA.
...YES, I UNDER-STAND, MOTHER.
You must obtain the Amakawa family power at any cost.
This is all for the Jinguuji family.
YES... BUT...
What is it?
AS WE SUSPECTED... THE CAT WAS WITH HIM.
!!

I'll notify Kaburagi-san from Public Safety, as well as the Metropolitan Police Department.
But the prefectural police and lowest levels of law enforcement don't know anything. And certainly not the mass media either.
IT SEEMS I'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE.
AND NOT JUST THE CAT, BUT I ALSO SENSED OTHER AYAKASHI.
2F
.....
Do what you can to refrain from conduct that would draw attention to yourself.
This is Japan, after all.
...THAT DEPENDS ON MY OPPONENT.

THAT SYMBOL ON YOUR FOREHEAD... IT'S THE JINGUUJI FAMILY'S... YOU KNOW.
トコ……
DO (TMP)
HMPH.
—MY, MY, LITTLE SHRIMP.
A HIDEOUS MONSTER LIKE YOU TAKING THE FORM OF A HUMAN...
...HOW ABSO-LUTELY REPUL-SIVE.
I'LL SLICE YOU INTO RIBBONS UNTIL NOBODY CAN RE-COGNIZE YOU!

...I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF...
HAAH
...FOR HAVING TRIED TO KILL A HUMAN LIKE YUUTO...
THOSE THAT REALLY DESERVE TO DIE...
"JIBASHIRI"?
WOULD YOU MIND NOT LUMPING ME TOGETHER WITH THAT COARSE AND DIRTY BUNCH?
...ARE THE LIKES OF YOU AND THE JIBASHIRI... YOU KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOAL YOU HAD IN MIND WHEN YOU APPROACHED YUUTO...BUT YOU WILL GET NOWHERE...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A LIFELESS HUNK OF MEAT RIGHT HERE AND NOW...
ZOZOZOZOZOZO (SHOOOOOM)

KUESU JINGUUJI... HUH?
A DEMON SLAYER I MET AS A KID IN NOIHARA WHO'S AFFILIATED WITH THE AMAKAWA FAMILY.
AAAW, WE DIDN'T GO SHOPPING IN THE END, SO ALL I HAVE FOR DINNER'S CUP RAMEN.
CUP
I DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WAS SHE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
H-HER LIPS WERE SO SOFT, THOUGH.
ZUZUZU (SLURP)
BUT WHAT WAS WITH THAT PERSONALITY! AND THAT ATTITUDE!
HIMARI
HIMARI... HASN'T LEFT HER ROOM SINCE WE GOT HOME.
THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME THOSE TWO MET...
NOT AFTER THE WAY SHE SUDDENLY WENT INTO BATTLE MODE

I HAD A FEELING SHE WOULD SHOW UP SOMEDAY, BUT...
...I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE SO POWER-FUL.
I HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT IT IS SHE IS AFTER.
AND THAT I AM AN OBSTACLE TO HER ACHIEV-ING HER GOAL.
WHY DID THAT SMALL GESTURE IRK ME SO!?
WHAT IS THIS?

...DOES IT FEEL GOOD?
MM... SO CTOLIAD
BUT IT WAS JUST A LOCKING OF THE LIPS. A PECK.
ALL IT IS IS A MEETING OF THE MOUTHS...
NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I, AS A CAT, LICK SOME-ONE WITH MY TONGUE, RIGHT?
WAS THAT WHAT THEY CALL... A KISS?
WOULD IT BE WRONG FOR HIM TO DO IT... WITH ME?
...DID IT FEEL GOOD FOR THE YOUNG LORD? DOES HE WISH TO LOCK LIPS WITH THAT FEMALE AGAIN?
NEVER HAVING DONE IT MYSELF, I CANNOT SAY FOR SURE, BUT.....

BAN (BANG)
ドーンドーンドーン
DAN (STOMP)
DAN
DAN
?
HAAH..
.....
BA (WHAM)
YOUNG LORD! LOCK LIPS WITH ME!!
BFT!!

ZUZUN (RUMBLE)
BARI (BZZT)
BARI
ZA (SKRSH)
ZA
ZA
ZA
NOW SEE HERE, SHRIMP! YOUR ATTACKS ARE DULL.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU ...
JU (BSHT)
HAVE YOU GOTTEN SOFT OR SOME-THING?
GO (VWOOM)
WITH THIS LEVEL OF MAGIC, IT'S RIDICULOUS TO IMAGINE YOU'RE A BONA FIDE DEMON SLAYER... YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE TWELVE FAMILIES' BARREL ...
BOBOBO (FWOOOOSH)
ほぼぼぼ……
YOU DEMON SLAYER OF NO ACCOUNT... YOU KNOW.
BIKU (TWITCH)
...BOTTOM? NO ACCOUNT?
GUO (ROOAR)
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE CALLING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL, YOU STEAMING PILE OF SHIT!!?
I'LL WIPE YOU CLEAN OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET!!

I HAVE TO DRAW AS MUCH CONDENSATION FROM THE AIR AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A WALL OF WATER...
THAT SURE GOT HER GOAT... YOU KNOW.
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (ZIP)
!?
GASHI (GRAB)
BARI
BARI (BZZT)
!!
<DEATH> BE WITH YOU!!
BON (BOOM)

ZUBABABABA (WHOOOOOSH)
ON-DEM
...SHE GOT AWAY.
オオオオオオオオ
OOOOOO (WOOOO)
KAGETSUKI ...! WHY ARE YOU HERE... YOU KNOW?
YOU USUALLY LOOK LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW.
I CAME TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
YOUR DUTY IS TO OBSERVE AND KEEP THE AMAKAWA BOY IN CHECK.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, FOOL?
!
ZA (FWOOSH)

YUUTO...
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE HER TO DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS... YOU KNOW.
I WAS JUST TEASING HER...YOU KNOW.
THIS DEMON SLAYER IS INCREDIBLY AGGRESSIVE.
WH-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
A SMOOCH.
A PECK.
A KISS...
ANY OF THOSE WILL DO.
SO DO IT!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, HIMARI?
IS IT IMPOSSIBLE WITH ME.....
I DO NOT KNOW... BUT...
...UNLESS YOU DO THE SAME TO ME AS YOU DID WITH THAT FEMALE, THIS WEIGHT IN MY CHEST WILL NOT EASE.
...WITH AN AYAKASHI LIKE ME .....?
UH...
Y-YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR, HIMARI ...
I CAN'T TURN YOU DOWN WHEN YOU SAY THAT TO ME WITH THAT FACE.
THERE'S NO QUESTION ANY GUY IN HIS RIGHT MIND...
...WOULD WANT TO PLANT A KISS ON A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU.

NO, NO, DON'T AVOID THE REALITY HERE, YUUTO AMAKAWA. I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MAN. THIS ISN'T A GENERALIZATION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THIS IS HIMARI IN FRONT OF YOU, NOT JUST SOME GIRL "LIKE" HER.
WHAT MATTERS HERE IS WHETHER OR NOT I WANT TO KISS HIMARI!
THAT IS TO SAY, I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A STRANGE REQUEST, AND IT MIGHT BE DISGRACEFUL.
わた WATA
わた WATA (FLAIL)
わた WATA
J-JUST A LITTLE...
...PECK ON THE CHEEK... WILL DO, IF THAT IS ALL RIGHT?
HIMARI'S SHOULDERS ARE TREMBLING...
SHE'S SCARED?

HIMARI.
YOUNG LORD...?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EASE HER MIND, SO WHAT AM I STALLING FOR...?
HIMARI, WHO WIELDS A SWORD AND WILL FIGHT ANY AYAKASHI WITHOUT HESITATION, IS SCARED ...
SO MUCH THAT HER SLENDER SHOULDERS ARE ALL TREMBLING ...
DOKI (BADUMP)
DOKI
DOKI
ピーポーン
PIN (DOON) (DING DONG)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
BIKU (JUMP)
W-WAIT, YOUNG LO...
Y-YOUNG LORD!

...RD.

MUCHU (SMOOCH)
...HUH? THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A CHEEK...?

.....
THE... THE GLOOM HAS DISSIPATED.
BUT IN ITS PLACE, MY H-HEART IS THUMPING WITH RENEWED FEROCITY.
EH..... WAI..... .....THE MOUTH?
BUWA (DRIBBLE)
...MEOW.
BOOOO (DAZED)
THIS THUMPING.....FEELS GOOD!!

THE FRIDGE IS ALMOST EMPTY, SO I BROUGHT SOME SIDE DISHES FOR DINNER...
OOF!!
DOSU (GLOMP)
THE LIGHTS ARE ON, SO I KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME NEXT TIME.
WH-WHAT'S THE DEAL!? WHY'RE YOUR EARS OUT!?
RINKO, YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT TONIGHT. ♡
MEEEOW!
WE KISSED, WE KISSED, WE KISSED.
WE KISSED.
...WAIT, AAAAH!! YUUTO, YOU WENT AHEAD AND SPOILED YOUR DINNER WITH CUP RAMEN AGAIN!?
ARE YOU THAT HUNGRY? I DON'T HAVE ANY CAT FOOD ON ME, JUST SO YOU KNOW.
??

YOUNG LORD.
MANY THANKS FOR THE TASTY DISH! ♡
PLANNING ON EATING YUUTO'S SHARE TOO, ARE YOU?

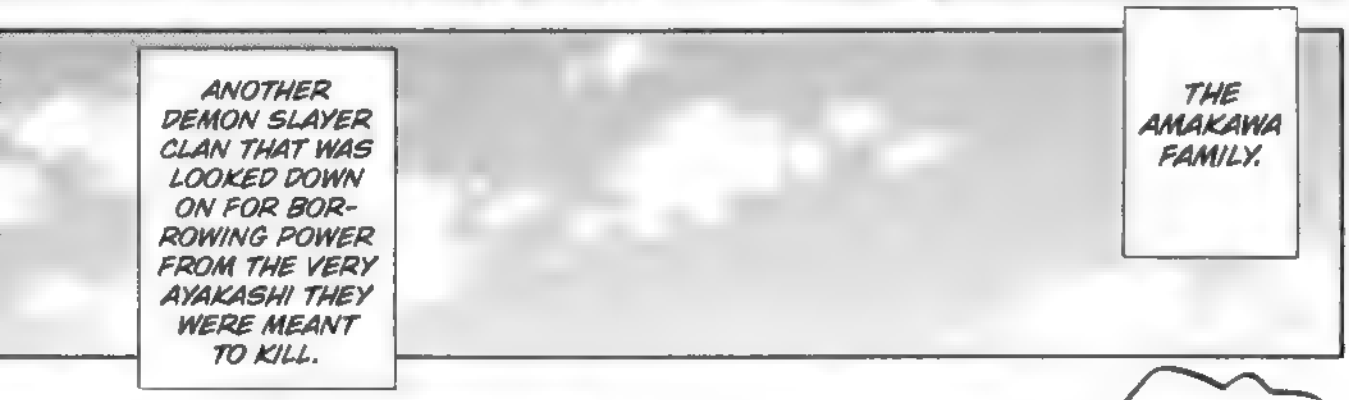
MENAGERIE 17:
THE CAT'S FEELINGS AND THE WITCH'S MELANCHOLY

THE INCIDENT IN SHINTAKA-MIYA THE OTHER DAY HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
IT WAS AN EXPLOSION CAUSED BY A GAS LEAK.
A GAS LEAK? ON THE ROOF OF A MULTI-TENANT BUILDING?
THAT'S RATHER UNUSUAL.
THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES OR WITNESSES, SO THERE SHOULD BE NO COMPLICATIONS.
I UNDER-STAND THAT. SO LONG AS YOU ARE A DEMON SLAYER, YOUNG MISTRESS, WE WILL SUPPORT YOU.
BUT I'M WHITTLING DOWN THE MONSTER NUMBERS, YOU KNOW?
ALTHOUGH JAPAN'S SAFETY DOGMA IS A THING OF THE PAST, IT TOOK QUITE A BIT OF WORK TO COVER THE REAL STORY UP.
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO AVOID THESE LITTLE SKIRMISHES IN THE FUTURE.

...I'D RUN AWAY WITH MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS.
THE WORLD'S IMPORTANT, BUT I CARE MORE ABOUT THE CLAN AND MY FAMILY.
HOW WISE OF YOU, KABU-RAGI-SAN.
SO LONG AS I'M A DEMON SLAYER... INDEED.
WHAT IF I USED THIS POWER TO CONTROL SOCIETY FROM THE SHADOWS?
FAMILY... MY FAMILY, THE JINGUUJI CLAN, HAS A LONG HISTORY OF DEMON SLAYING COMPARED TO THE OTHER FAMILIES.
IT'S THE OLDEST OF THE TWELVE.
BACK WHEN THE SWORD AND ONMYOUDOU HELD SWAY...
...THE JINGUUJI FAMILY WAS IGNORED BY REST OF THE TWELVE FAMILIES.

THEN OUR ANCESTORS SOUGHT POWER AND CONCENTRATED ON WESTERN MAGICS.
THAT TRADITION WAS NOT WELL REGARDED AND BROUGHT EVEN MORE VILIFICATION OF THE CLAN.
WE WERE CALLED A BUNCH OF FOOLS WHO COULD ONLY USE WORTHLESS MAGIC.
IS THIS IT?
...!
YOU CALL YOURSELVES DEMON SLAYERS, BUT IS THIS ALL THE JINGUUJI HAVE TO SHOW?
WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH WANTING POWER?
KILL ALL THE AYAKASHI, OVERTAKE THE OTHER FAMILIES, AND STAND AT THE SUMMIT.
—THAT WAS THE JINGUUJI FAMILY SLOGAN.

I GREW UP HEARING THE DETAILS OF OUR HUMILIATING FAMILY HISTORY REGULARLY.
BUT I HAD A WAY OUT THAT NOBODY ELSE DID.


THE AMAKAWA FAMILY.
ANOTHER DEMON SLAYER CLAN THAT WAS LOOKED DOWN ON FOR BORROWING POWER FROM THE VERY AYAKASHI THEY WERE MEANT TO KILL.

YEAH, WELL, IF I FLUNK ENGLISH AGAIN, I'M GONNA HAVE MY ALLOWANCE CUT, SOOOO...!
STILL, I COMMEND YOU, RINKO, FOR PROPOSING THAT WE STUDY IN THE LIBRARY TOGETHER.
SUTA
SUTA (MARCH)

GEEEEEZ! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AIHARA JERRRK!
MAKING US DO HOMEWORK FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS AND GIVING US A QUIZ NEXT WEEEEEEK!

TAIZOU WENT TO PRACTICE.
HIS MUSIC LESSON
AND THE CAT...I MEAN HIMARI...SAID, "I HAVE NO USE FOR ANOTHER COUNTRY'S LANGUAGE!" AND DISAPPEARED.
SHE'S PROBABLY ASLEEP ON THE ROOF, DON'T YOU THINK?
OHHH...
EVEN I DON'T GET SUCH BAD GRADES.
AH HA HA
IT MUST BE TOUGH HAVING TO TELL YOUR PARENTS YOU GOT AN "F" IN SOMETHING.
URGH! Y-YOU TRAITOR-RRRRR!!
NO MURDER, PLEASE
BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE NOIHARA-SAN AND MASAKI-KUN?
IT WOULD BE AN INCONVENIENCE FOR ME
HM?
GIKU (CHOKE)
KIRAN (GLINT)
SO SHE RAN AWAY, HUH? ...FINE BY ME.
I'LL LUMP IN THOSE TWO DESERTERS' PORTIONS AND GIVE YOU GUYS A LESSON THAT WOULD MAKE THE SPARTANS PROUD...
HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!
RINKO-SAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I REALLY WANNA GO HOME...
YEAH, SAME HERE...

GARA GARA (RATTLE)
NOW GET IN THERE
NOOOO!!
HOW ARE YOU, YUUTO AMAKA-WA?
OH...?
WHO'S THAT!?
OH MY, THAT TALK WON'T DO.
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

!?
YOUR LOVELY FIANCÉE'S COME TO PAY YOU A VISIT. YOU SHOULD RECEIVE ME WITH MORE WARMTH.
.....
BOOOO (DAZED)
!
WHAT ARE YOU LOAFING ABOUT FOR, CAT ...? YOU KNOW.
!

THE NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE'S ALWAYS LEAVING HERSELF OPEN.
I SENSED THAT YOU TWO HAD INFILTRATED THE SCHOOL.
DID YOU FORGET THAT I CAST A SPELL ON THE SITE, MIZUCHI?
SAME GOES FOR THAT KASHA DOWN THERE.
!
HOW LIKE THE CRIMSON BLADE.
WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE FOR?
IF YOU PLAN ON HARMING THE YOUNG LORD, I SHALL NOT HESITATE TO KILL YOU.

NOTE: A "KASHA" IS A KIND OF CAT-LIKE JAPANESE MONSTER KNOWN FOR STEALING CORPSES DURING FUNERALS.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE JINGUUJI IS TRYING TO WIPE OUT ALL AYAKASHI ...
...AND YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION... YOU KNOW.
SO WHAT?

DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE AMAKAWAS' SITUATION.
THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW LIES WITH ANOTHER.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM, YOU KNOW...? DO YOU EVEN REALIZE WHERE SHE IS RIGHT NOW...?
.....
SHE'S IN THE SCHOOL...AT THE LIBRARY. AND PROBABLY MAKING CONTACT WITH THE YOUNG LORD AND HIS FRIENDS AS WE SPEAK.
DID YOU NOT SAY YOU COULD SENSE INTRUDERS?

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LET HER BE...YOU KNOW?
MIZUCHI.

THE YOUNG LORD IS ALL I CARE ABOUT.
BOTH YOU AND THE OTHER DEMON SLAYER CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE.

YOU TOO ARE AWARE OF THE YOUNG LORD'S KINDNESS, ARE YOU NOT?
I HAVE FAITH IN HIM.

WHAT'S SHE SAYING...?
F-F-FIANCÉ-EEEE!?
GOGU
GKONK
R-RINKO, CLASS PRESIDENT. I CAN EXPLAIN...
WHOA...

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING THERE WHEN YOU WERE SUFFERING MOST.
BUT YOUR FATHER DIDN'T INFORM YOUR GRANDFATHER OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
AND I WAS STILL UNDERGOING TRAINING AT THE TIME.
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT YOU HAVE NO FIANCÉE AND THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY ALONE IN THE WORLD—!!
I-I ONLY JUST RECENTLY REMEMBERED...! BUT THAT WAS MY GRANDPARENTS' DOING... GWEH!
JINGUUJI... SAN.
HOW STANDOFFISH OF YOU. WE'RE OLD FRIENDS! CALL ME KUESU.
HOLD IT, KUESU.
WHO EVER SAID YOU COULD CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME, YOU FLAT-CHESTED COMMONER?
IT'S A PROBLEM HAVING UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE STROLLING ABOUT THE SCHOOL...
I'M AUTHORIZED SO!
GRAAH!!
BUT ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE RELATED TO AMAKAWA-KUN? HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY LIVING RELATIVES.

...IF THIS IS PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, I'M NOT LISTENING UNLESS YOUR WAY OF THINKING'S CHANGED.
I LIKE SOME-ONE WHO GETS THE PICTURE QUICKLY.
...WHY NOT?
I HAVE COME BECAUSE I WISH TO SPEAK TO YUUTO AMAKAWA.
SFX: SUU.. (INHALE...)
WE ARE THE CHOSEN ONES.
THAT IS A DEMON SLAYER'S DUTY.
HAVING BEEN GRANTED SUPERNATURAL POWER, WE MUST ERADICATE THOSE VILE AYAKASHI FOR THE SAKE OF THE PLANET AND ITS PEOPLE.

BISHI (JAB)
IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO TAKE OUT AYAKASHI INDISCRIMINATELY...
...THAT MAKE SHIZUKU AND OTHER PEACEFUL AYAKASHI HATE PEOPLE LIKE YUUTO!!
.....?
...I GET IT ALREADY. SO YOU'RE A DEMON SLAYER TOO.
GET REAL.
RINKO. CLASS PRESIDENT. WOULD YOU LEAVE US ALONE...
YOU'RE JUST PLAIN ARROGANT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE A CHOSEN ONE!!
...YOU SIMPLE, POWERLESS COMMONER, WHO DEPENDS ON THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS...

YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S GOT A PRETTY COM-FORT-ABLE LIFE.
YOU'VE GOT NO TROUBLES, BOTH YOUR PARENTS LOVE YOU, AND YOU HAVE ALL THE GOOD FOOD YOU CAN EAT.
YOU'RE VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED BY THE UGLY HARDSHIPS OF THE WORLD...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A KILL-OR-BE-KILLED FIGHT IS LIKE. YOU JUST GO ON ENJOYING YOUR PATHETIC, MEDIOCRE LIFE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
HOW DARE A COMMONER LIKE YOU VOICE YOUR OPINION! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
MY SIXTEEN YEARS OF LIFE HAVE OVER-FLOWED WITH THE STENCH OF DANGER AND DEATH.
I'M NOTHING AT ALL LIKE THOSE SPOILED GIRLS OUT THERE WHO'VE GOTTEN TO LIVE NORMAL LIVES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF A DEMON SLAYER!?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ANYONE AND STILL GROW UP UNDER THE PROTECTION OF YOUR PARENTS.

SU (TOUCH)
YOU'RE ONE OF US...
AND YOU, YUUTO AMAKAWA.
THE DUTY OF WE DEMON SLAYERS IS TO PROTECT THE MODEST DAILY LIVES OF COMMONERS LIKE YOU.
BEAR THAT IN MIND.
KUH...

GRANDPA...
I AM CERTAIN OLD MAN GEN NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD GROW UP TO BE SUCH A SELFISH AND RADICAL YOUNG LADY.
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR GRANDFATHER SAID.
NOW THAT YOUR POWER HAS MANIFESTED, YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

HIMARI!
NOI-HARA-SAN?
TCH ...!
I CANNOT HAVE YOU CORNERING THE YOUNG LORD LIKE THIS.
I DO NOT KNOW WITH WHAT YOU HAVE INVOLVED YOURSELF ALL THESE YEARS, BUT...
...LEAVE THE YOUNG LORD OUT OF IT.
...IT FEELS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE BONDED TO HIM.
WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO'S HIS FIANCÉE AND A FELLOW DEMON SLAYER TO BOOT... SO WE UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE.

K-KISS !?
HIMA —!!
UHP!
THEN WHY DO YOU FORCE THINGS ON HIM SO?
YOU COMPELLED EACH OF THOSE THREE KISSES FROM HIM, DID YOU NOT?
WHEREAS THE YOUNG LORD...
...CHOSE TO KISS ME OF HIS OWN ACCORD, SEE?

...SO THAT IS THE RELATION-SHIP THE CRIMSON BLADE AND THE AMAKA-WAS HAVE.
HE IS MORE UNDER-STANDING OF AYA-KASHI THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR.
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL... YOU KNOW.
BOTA (DRIP)
ボタ
ボタ
ボタ
BOTA
OH...

YUUTOOO!!
TH-THAT IS...
HEH-HEHN!
SFX: GO (BASH) GA GA GO
UWAAH, RINKO'S RAPID-FIRE SUPER ATTACK ...
HOW DIRTY! IMPURE!! YOU'VE NEVER EVEN DONE IT TO ME ONCE, AND YOU GO K-K-K-K-KISSING HER!?
N-NO, IT CAN'T BE... WITH AN AYAKASHI .....
IS IT TRUE ...?
YORO (STAGGER)
...PRESENTS NO REAL OBSTACLE IN THE FACE OF THE PROMISE YOU MADE ME THAT DAY...
HMPH... THIS LEVEL OF EMOTIONAL DAMAGE...

UH-OH... THERE'S STILL SO MUCH I DON'T RE-MEMBER...
GRRR!
PROMISE ...?
KURA (REEL)
HA... HA-HA..... IT APPEARS THIS REALLY IS...
...KUESU JINGUUJI. UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE EXCEPTION-ALLY STRONG OMAMORI GIVEN TO THE YOUNG LORD IS THAT HIS MEMORIES HAVE BECOME FRAGMENTED.
WERE YOU AWARE OF THAT?
!!
HE ONLY JUST RECOVERED HIS MEMORIES OF ME.
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
...GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT...

I-
I'LL BE
BACK.
BUT...
SU
(HOLD)
...YUUTO
AMAKA-
WA.
EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER,
YOU AND
I...
...HAVE
BEEN
BOUND
TO EACH
OTHER
SINCE
CHILD-
HOOD.
BASASA
(FLAP)
...WHAT
ON
EARTH
WAS
THAT?
ZA
ZA
GOO
(WOOOO)
NOT
AGAIN
AND
WITH
THAT...
FARE-
WELL.

BUT I HAD A SHOT AT GETTING OUT.
THE JINGUUJIS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TREATED AS HERETICS AND LOOKED DOWN ON.
THE AMA-KAWA FAMILY.
THEY NEVER SLIGHTED THE JIN-GUUJI CLAN.
THE AMAKAWAS' "LIGHT FERRY" AND THE JINGUUJIS' BLACK MAGIC.
THEN WE WILL STAND ABOVE ALL THE VIRTUALLY OBSOLETE DEMON SLAYERS AND CONQUER THEM ALL...
ESPE-CIALLY THE BOY MY AGE, YUU...
YUUTO AMAKAWA. HE AND I WARMED UP TO EACH OTHER IM-MEDIATELY.
YES. I UNDER-STAND IT WELL, MOTHER.
WE WILL BECOME ONE.

YUUTO AMAKAWA WILL BE MINE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES...!

YOU KNOW ...!? YOU KNOW ...!?
CALM DOWN, YOU TWOOO !!
AND ANYWAY, THAT WAS RINKO'S DOING!
WH-WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, I SAY!?!?
IT MADE MY HEART POUND
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT A KISS IS? ...THAT'S A -SMOOCH- BETWEEN TWO MOUTHS. ♡

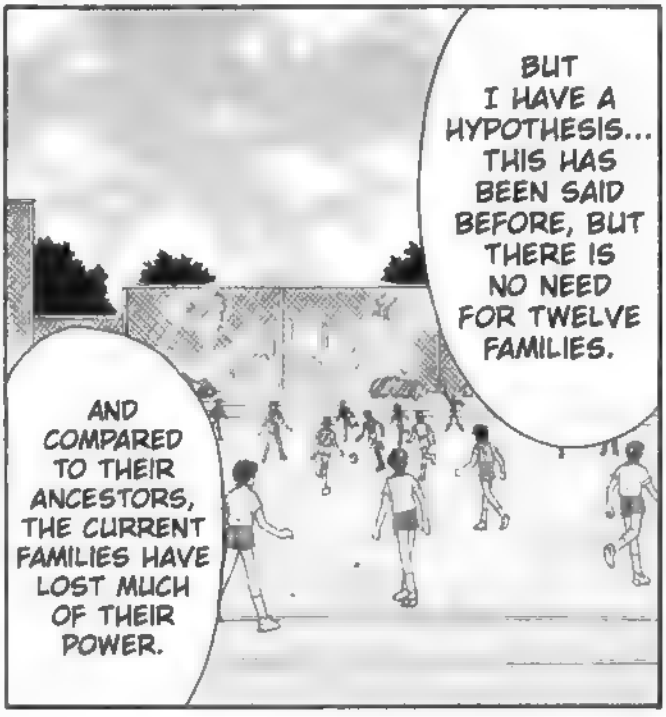
TO GET RIGHT TO THE POINT...
...EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH KUESU JINGUUJI, YOUNG LORD, I AM IN NO POSITION TO STOP YOU.
I AM BUT A BODY-GUARD.
I HAVE NO OPINION REGARDING THE PATH YOU CHOOSE.
I CAN ONLY ACCOMPANY AND PROTECT YOU SO LONG AS MY BODY IS ABLE.
THAT'S THE DUTY OF AN AYAKASHI THAT WORKS FOR THE AMAKAWA FAMILY... RIGHT?
FOOL. I AM SPEAKING ONLY FROM MY POSITION FREE OF PERSONAL FEELINGS ON THE MATTER.

HIMARI... DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
I HAD NO IDEA.

I HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE IN THIS HUMAN SOCIETY.
I HAVE COME TO KNOW VULGAR DESIRES.

WHY DID GRANDPA BETROTH ME TO THAT GIRL...
WAS HE TRYING TO MERGE TWO DEMON SLAYER FAMILIES INTO ONE?

AMA-KAWA IS A PATRIARCHAL CLAN, WHILE JINGUUJI IS MATRIAR-CHAL.
SO LONG AS THE NAME OF THE CLAN DOES NOT BECOME AN ISSUE, MAKING THE TWO INTO ONE TO CONSERVE POWER IS NOT A BAD IDEA.

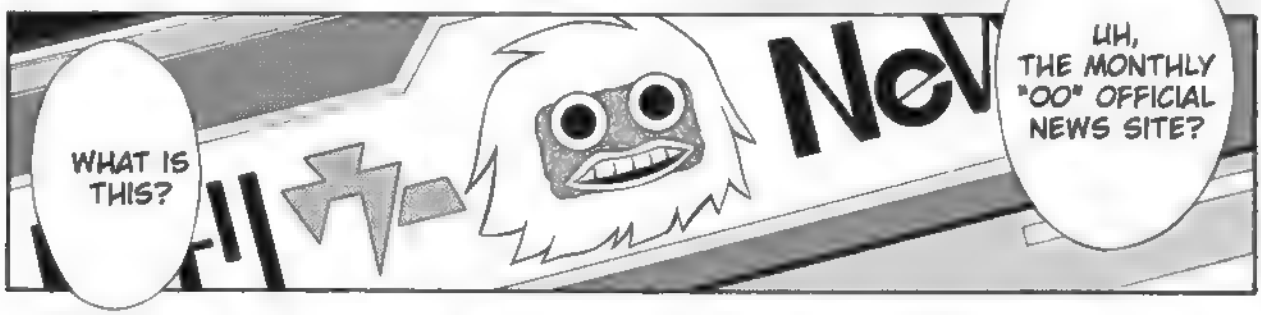

BUT I HAVE A HYPOTHESIS... THIS HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR TWELVE FAMILIES.
AND COMPARED TO THEIR ANCESTORS, THE CURRENT FAMILIES HAVE LOST MUCH OF THEIR POWER.

BECOME ONE WITH THAT GIRL ...?
B-BE GENTLE WITH ME, OKAY?
MOWA (FIDGET)
もわ
MOWA
もわ
AH!
JITO (GLARE)
YOUNG LORD, DO NOT TELL ME YOU WERE ENCHANTED BY THAT GIRL'S FEMININE WILES!?
EH!? N-NO...
GU (YANK)
I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU! YOUNG LORD, YOU ARE TOO WEAK AGAINST FEMALES.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE.
THEN WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AWAY? LOOK ME IN THE EYE!
B-BUT IF I LOOK YOU IN THE EYE...

HEYYY AMAKAWA! YOU'D BETTER NOT BE PLAYING HOOKYYY —!!
UWAH! I KNOW THAT!
DAMMIT, WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU, HIMARI, THEY KEEP AN EVEN CLOSER EYE ON ME.
HMPH.
NO MATTER.
I AM GOING HOME FOR TODAY TO DRAW UP MEASURES AGAINST KUESU.
MEA-SURES?
BUT THE CLASS PRESIDENT SAID SHE WANTED TO SEE ME.
THOUGH I WAS RELUCTANT TO DO SO, I ASKED THE MIZUCHI TO PROTECT YOU WHILE I AM AWAY.
DO NOT DAWDLE ON YOUR WAY HOME.
SO LONG AS IT IS NOT A LENGTHY MEETING.

MENAGERIE 18: AND SO THE CAT FACES OFF

SO WHAT'S UP, PRESI-DENT?
JUST GIVE ME A SEC.
TATAN (TAP)
HERE.


UH, THE MONTHLY "OO" OFFICIAL NEWS SITE?
WHAT IS THIS?

ISN'T THIS THAT MAGAZINE THAT COVERS SUPER-NATURAL PHENO-MENA AND STUFF ?
BUT THEY GET ALL THEIR MATERIAL OFF THE WEB.
SO WHAT ABOUT THIS SITE?
LOOK AT THE ARTICLE DATED AUGUST 11TH.

THIS IS KUESU JIN-GUUJI... BUT WHY?
IN THE LIBRARY THE OTHER DAY, SHE DROPPED A UNIQUE WORD.
!!
"DEMON SLAYER."

SO I DID SOME RE-SEARCH ONLINE AFTER THAT.
THE MAJORITY OF SEARCH RESULTS I GOT WERE FROM MADE-UP VIDEO GAME AND MANGA CHARACTERS, BUT...
...THIS WAS DIFFERENT.
"JAPAN'S LAST WITCH COMES HOME FROM ENGLAND" ...
"HER NAME IS KUESU JINGUUJI (AGE 16), AND SHE IS CALLED A DEMON SLAYER. SHE'S DESCENDED FROM A FAMILY OF JAPANESE MAGIC USERS AND WENT ABROAD TO ENGLAND AT THE AGE OF EIGHT TO STUDY AT THE ROYAL MAGIC SOCIETY...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A "MAGIC SOCIETY"?
"SHE RAPIDLY DISTINGUISHED HERSELF IN THE WORLD OF THE OCCULT, TRAVELING AROUND EUROPE AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTREMIST AND RADICAL GROUPS THAT RESEARCH BANNED AND FORBIDDEN TEXTS.
"THEN, STARTING WITH THE LEMEGETON, SHE BEGAN READING CLASS-1 PROHIBITED TEXTS AND WAS THEREBY MARKED AS A DANGER-OUS ENTITY BY ESTABLISHMENTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.
WH-WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?
"NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE WHY SHE HAS SUD-DENLY RETURNED HOME. HOWEVER, SINCE JAPAN HAS NO OFFICIAL MAGIC RESEARCH SOCIETY TO SPEAK OF, THERE ARE SPECULATIONS THAT IT IS TO ESCAPE THE LIMELIGHT..."

"CROWLEY'S DAUGHTER," "THE SECOND MARGINAL," "THE SMILING CLUSTER BOMB."
SHE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY INFAMOUS ABROAD.
BUT ISN'T THIS JUST A BUNCH OF RUMORS?
YOU'RE NOIHARA-SAN'S RELATIVE, RIGHT? HOW FITTING.
.....
...THERE IS TRUTH TO BE FOUND EVEN IN RUMORS.
NOBODY CAN ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH... YOU KNOW.
WELL, THIS IS EVERYTHING I FOUND. I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY DEEPER.
GATA (CLATTER)
MY INSTINCTUAL WARNING BELLS ARE RINGING UP A STORM.
SO, AMAKAWA-KUN! YOU GOT ANY OTHER INFORMATION FOR ME?
HUH? WHAT, YOU'RE GONNA PAY ME?
HMM, GOOD POINT. IN-STEAD OF MONEY...

...HOW ABOUT A KISS?
HUH!?
H-HOLD ON, CLASS PRESIDENT. YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO KISS YOU OVER THAT...!!
GATATA (CLATTER)
I WAS JUST KIDDING. ♡
I KNEW IT. AMAKAWA-KUN'S NOT THE KIND OF FLIGHTY BOY WHO'D KISS ANY GIRL.
IT WAS EITHER AN ACCIDENT OR A COINCIDENCE, OR...
...A KISS THAT HAD SOME MEANING BEHIND IT...
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
SEEZ, CLASS PRESIDENT, YOU TAKE YOUR JOKES TOO FAR
RINKO, IF YOU DON'T STAY SHARP YOU'LL GET LEFT IN THE DUST, GOT IT?
SEE YOU TOMORROW, RINKO.
OH, RIGHT. BYE-BYE.

EH!?
IN THIS TOWN.
ANOTHER DEMON SLAYER'S SHOWN UP.
GAKU (WOBBLE)
GAKU
SHE'S QUITE SKILLED AND VIOLENT... SHE'D SHATTER YOU IN A SNAP... YOU KNOW.
THE CLASS PRESI-DENT WAS WITH YOU TODAY?
MY, WHAT A SUSPICIOUS TOPIC YOU WERE DISCUSSING.
YUUTO-SAAAN! PROTECT THIS TENDER LITTLE TEA-CUUUUUP!
GYUUU (SMOOSH)
MUNYUU (SQUISH)
LET GO OF HIM, YOU TEA-CUP RICE BOWL!!

...ENOUGH TALK ABOUT AYAKASHI AND DEMON SLAYERS.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW FOR SURE IS SOMETHING ELSE.
YUUTO, DID YOU REALLY DO THAT WITH HIMARI AND KUESU...?
DON'T TELL ME
?
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (RUSTLE)

YUUTO AMAKAWA ISN'T HERE.
WITHOUT THE YOUNG LORD AROUND, WE NEED NOT HOLD BACK WITH EACH OTHER.
...THAT'S TRUE TOO, I SUPPOSE.
I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK YOU.
ZA (STANCE)

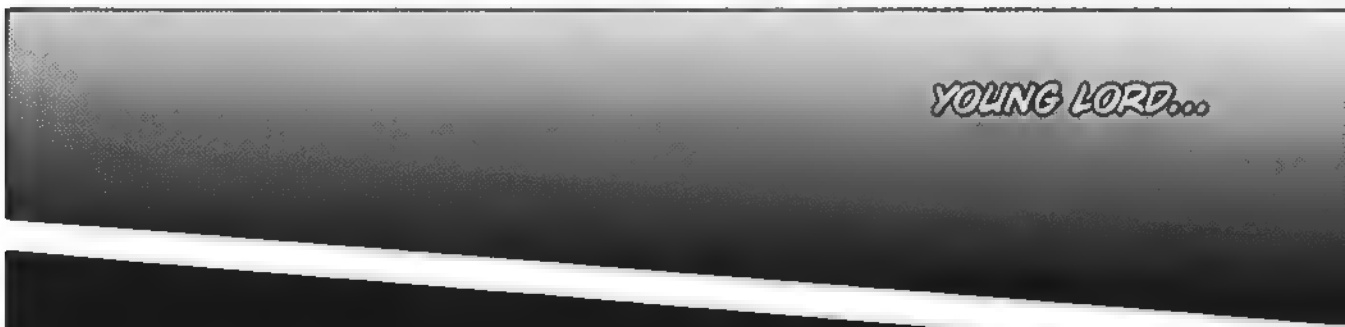
DO YOU REALLY HAVE FEELINGS FOR THE YOUNG LORD?
.....JUST WHO ARE YOU?
...DON'T HAVE THE FACE OF A MERE BODY-GUARD.
YOU...

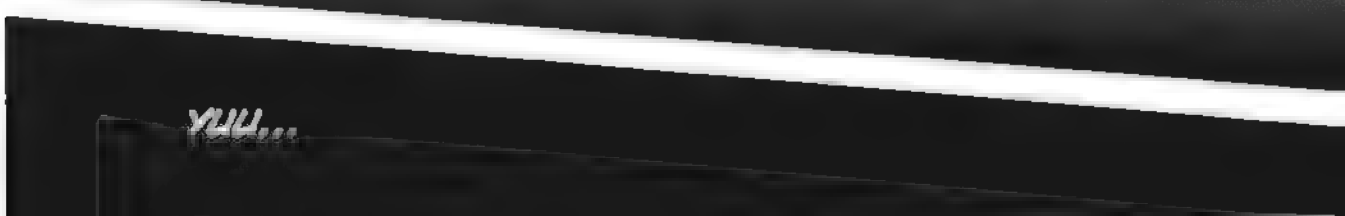
...BACK IN NOIHARA, THE YOUNG LORD AND I WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
EXCEPT FOR ONE TIME WHEN I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO APPEAR BEFORE HIM.
I KNOW.
THAT WAS THE DAY I CAME TO VISIT HIM.
AND WE HAD NO NEED FOR A CAT TO INTERFERE.
NO NEED... YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THE ALLERGY TO CATS, WHICH MADE IT SO HE COULD NOT COME NEAR US...
GU (CLENCH)
...WAS YOUR DOING.

HMM... WHO CAN SAY?
I'VE PLUMB FORGOTTEN.

LET'S JUST... LEAVE IT AT THAT.
SU (HOLD)

NO MATTER WHICH ONE IS MISSING, THE YOUNG LORD'S SADNESS IS LESS THAN HALF.
I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE THREE OF US BEING TOGETHER.
GASA (SCUFF)


YOUNG LORD...


YUU...

...I DID IT.
NOT LIKE IT WAS MY FIRST TIME, THOUGH...
I KISSED THEM.
YORO (STAGGER)
N-NOOOO...
DON'T MAKE UP DUMB EXCUSES-SSSSSS!!
B-BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT TO OR THAT THEY NECESSARILY MEANT TO. ONE WAS AN ACCIDENT, AND THE OTHER AN ASSAULT. I WAS TOTALLY TAKEN BY SUR-PRISE!

I-I'M A PIPING HOT CUP OF TEEEA!
BE CARE-FUL YOU DON'T BURN YOUR-SELF NOW...
JUST STICK 'EM ON ME!
SEE, I'M YOUR TEACUP! WHEN YOU DRINK TEA, YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR LIPS TO YOUR CUP!!
M-M-ME TOO! I WANT A KISS TOOOOO!!
KIRU
GATA (CLATTER)
L-LIZ, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!?
OOF!
MISHI (CREAK)
HMPH!
RINKO.....

R-RINKO...?
KYU (HUG)
UWAH! WHAT AM I DOING!?
I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT AND HUGGED HIM TO ME, BUT NOW WHAT .....
HE CAN HEAR MY HEART BEATING A MILE A MINUTE!
WHAT DO I DO? AT THIS RATE, YUUTO'S GONNA... UH-OH, NOT GOOD.

HE KISSED HIMARI, AND HE KISSED KUESU.
SO THEN I...
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IF I KISS HIM OUT OF RIVALRY!!?
STOP. IF I DO THIS, MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YUUTO WILL... DO I REALLY WANT TO RUIN IT ALL...?
YUUTO...
GU
GU (PULL)
RINKO... YOU'RE SCARING ME.
KI...
THAT'S...
OF COURSE I CAN'T ACTUALLY TELL HIM TO KISS MEEEE!
UUUUGH.
ZUBO (SHOVE)
NGUH!!

うねっ (WRIGGLE)
うね
UNE
WHA ...!?
MM-GUH GUH ...!
.....
SHIZUKU, WHAT ARE YOU — !!?
ちゅっ
CHU (SMOOCH)

U-UM, SHIZUKU ...
IT WOULD BE SILLY IF SOMETHING SO SMALL MEANT I HAD SOME KIND OF HOLD OVER YOU...YOU KNOW.
チュー CHUUU
CHUUUU (SMOOOCH)
ちゅぽ…ー CHUPON (SMACK)
ちゅろ…ー CHUPU (SLICK)
EITHER WAY, I WILL HAVE... ALL OF YOU...YOU KNOW.
AH...

SFX: PURU (SHAKE) PURU PURU

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WE NEVER DID GET ALONG.
'TIS TRUE.
HYUUU (WOOOO)
EVEN IF YOU'RE AN AYAKASHI, I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS ATTITUDE AND FOR SHOWING SUCH LOYALTY TO YOUR MASTER.
PARI (BZZT)
NEXT TIME, BE REBORN AS A HUMAN.
IF YOU ARE—
I RETURN THOSE SENTI-MENTS TO YOU AS WELL...
SHURAN (SHINNNG)
ACTUALLY, YOU REALLY ARE A HUMAN.
THOSE POWERS WOULD WEIGH YOU DOWN GREATLY IF YOU WERE REBORN AS AN AYA-KASHI.

TO BE CONTINUED...

BLACK, WHITE & BLACK ALL OVER

SFX: BA (WHAP)

*YAMATO NADESHIKO IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE TRADITIONALLY IDEAL JAPANESE WOMAN PERSONIFIED.

BUT HER AGE IS UNKNOWN

HER GOAL IS TO MAKE THE DEMON SLAYER YUUTO AMAKAWA HER SLAVE AND CLAIM HIM AS HER OWN.
THE FLAT-BUSTED LOLITA, SHIZUKU, THE MIZUCHI.

WHERE DOES SHE GET OFF GOING NAKED UNDER THE APRON LIKE THAT!?
JA (SIZZLE)
STARTING WITH THE COOKING, SHE TOOK FULL CONTROL OF THE HOUSEKEEPING.

MODEST RINKO

THIS GROWTH IS MY TOP-MOST PRIORITY!
GU (CLENCH)
THEY MOCKED ME WHEN THEY SAID I'M ONLY GOOD AT SPORTS 'COS I DON'T HAVE EXTRA WEIGHT ON MY CHEST TO CARRY AROUND, BUT...

OMAMORI HIMARI

AFTERWORD

WOW, IT'S VOLUME THREE. VOLUME THREE!

THE FARTHEST MY SERIES HAVE EVER GOTTEN IS ONLY TWO VOLUMES, SO I FEEL I'VE ENTERED FOREIGN TERRITORY. USUALLY, WHEN I'M GIVEN THIS MUCH TO WORK WITH, I GET USED TO THE CHARACTERS AND STORY-WRITING AND REALLY NAIL DOWN MY WORK PROCESS INTO AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM, BUT...IT TAKES A WHOLE LOT MORE TIME NOW THAN IT DID THE FIRST TIME AROUND!! ONE REASON MIGHT BE BECAUSE I TOOK TOO LONG SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT CROTCH SHOT REFERENCE...(HEH).

MATRA MILAN

2008.1 的場みらん

THANKS TO STUDIO HIBARI
NAGU-CHAN & MOGAMI-KUN & YOU

OMAMORI HIMARI 3

MILAN MATRA

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Hope Donovan

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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